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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234023

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: XM, PGEN

SUBJECT: ARA WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS, SEPTEMBER 14-22

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN PARTICIPATED IN THE US-JAPANESE CONSULTATIONS IN TOKYO THIS WEEK AT JAPAN'S SPECIAL REQUEST FOR INCLUSION OF DISCUSSIONS ON LATIN AMERICA. WHETHER JAPAN'S INTEREST SIGNIFIES, AS MR. TODMAN QUIPPED, THAT TRILATERALISM MAY BE YIELDING TO QUADRI-LATERALISM, IT ILLUSTRATES THE INCREASED ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO LATIN AMERICA IN MAJOR WORLD CAPITALS. DURING MR. TODMAN'S ABSENCE (SEPTEMBER 15-22) FRANK DEVINE PRESIDED IN ARA OVER RELATIVE QUIET BETWEEN THE PANAMA SIGNINGS AND THE PANAMA HEARINGS. BUT THERE WERE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND ON THE HILL.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS DEVELOPMENTS: ON SEPTEMBER 19 PRESIDENT
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SOMOZA LIFTED THE 3-YEAR STATE OF SIEGE, ENDING PRESS CENSORSHIP IN NICARAGUA, RESTORING THE RIGHT OF HABEAS CORPUS, PERMITTING OUTDOOR POLITICAL RALLIES, AND TRANSFERRING PENDING AND FUTURE SECURITY CASES TO THE CIVILIAN COURTS. IN HAITI PRESIDENT DUVALIER AMNESTIED 104 POLITICAL PRISONERS IN AN EVENT WITNESSED BY EMBASSY OFFICERS. ACCORDING TO OUR CURRENT INFORMATION THERE ARE

NO OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS BEING HELD IN HAITI. THE GOH PLANS TO EXPEL 11 OF THOSE AMNESTIED WHOM IT CONSIDERS STILL TO BE SECURITY RISKS, BUT THE REST ARE FREE TO LIVE IN HAITI.

3. BRAZIL DENOUCES FOUR US MILITARY AGREEMENTS: ON SEPTEMBER 19 THE BRAZILIANS ANNOUNCED THEIR DECISION TO TERMINATE FOUR MILITARY AGREEMENTS, SOME OF WHICH DATE BACK TO WORLD WAR II. DENUNCIATION OF THREE OF THESE AGREEMENTS, ACCORDING TO THE BRAZILIANS, DERIVES FROM THEIR DENUNCIATION LAST MARCH OF THE 1952 MUTUAL DEFENSE ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT. IN REALITY THIS LATEST ACTION VIRTUALLY COMPLETES THE DISMANTLING OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE SPECIAL US-BRAZILIAN MILITARY RELATIONSHIP THAT HAS EXISTED SINCE WORLD WAR II. BUT IT IS THE CULMINATION OF A PROCESS THAT BEGAN IN THE MID-60'S AND DOES NOT REPRESENT A MATERIAL CHANGE IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP. IT DOES EMPHASIZE THE DIFFICULT NATURE OF THE PRESENT RELATIONSHIP AS A DETERMINED BRAZIL PURSUES ITS GOAL OF INDEPENDENT POWER STATUS. WE ARE TAKING THIS ACTION IN STRIDE WITHOUT RECRIMINATIONS, MOST ESPECIALLY IN PUBLIC. SO FAR THE SUBJECT HAS RECEIVED NO PRESS ATTENTION IN WASHINGTON.

4. CUBAN DEVELOPMENTS: THE FIRST PLANELOAD OF REPATRIATED
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AMERICAN CITIZENS AND THEIR FAMILIES ARRIVED IN MIAMI FROM HAVANA ON SEPTEMBER 22. THE GROUP WAS WELCOMED BY JOE ARAGON ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT AND REPRESENTATIVES OF ARA AND SCA WERE ALSO PRESENT. THE CUBAN FOREIGN TRADE MINISTER, MARCELO FERNANDEZ FONT, WILL MAKE A PRIVATE VISIT TO THE US TO ATTEND A SEMINAR OF THE EAST-WEST TRADE COUNCIL ON OCTOBER 3. DURING HIS STAY IN WASHINGTON HE WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR EB.

5. CONGRESS RETURNS TO HARKIN ON IFI'S: THE HOUSE VOTED OVERWHELMINGLY, AND THE SENATE CONCURRED, TO REJECT THE ADMINISTRATION-SUPPORTED PROPOSAL ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE IFI'S. THIS PUTS BACK ON THE IDB WHAT AMOUNTS TO THE HARKIN AMENDMENT AND EXTENDS IT TO ALL OTHER IFI'S. IT WAS A VICTORY FOR THE LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE GROUP (E.G., ROUSSELOT AND ASHBROOK) WHICH COMBINED ON THIS ISSUE. THE HOUSE DEBATE LEFT NO DOUBT THAT HARKIN'S DEFINITION OF "OPPOSING" LOANS MEANS A "NO" VOTE. THE CONSERVATIVES JOINED HARKIN TO INDICATE THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS POSTURES OF THE IFI'S WILL GET CLOSE SCRUTINY WHEN CONGRESS CONSIDERS REPLENISHMENTS IN THE FUTURE.

IF THIS LIBERAL-CONSERVATIVE GROUP HANGS TOGETHER OUR
RELATIONSHIP WITH THE BANKS COULD FACE SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

6. PANAMA HEARINGS: THE TEXTS OF THE TREATIES WERE SENT
TO THE WHITE HOUSE ON SEPTEMBER 15 FOR FORMAL SUBMISSION
TO THE SENATE. HEARINGS BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELA-
TIONS COMMITTEE BEGIN SEPTEMBER 26, WHEN THE SECRETARY
LEADS OFF. HE WILL BE FOLLOWED BY AMBASSADORS BUNKER AND
LINOWITZ. PUBLIC TELEVISION WILL CARRY THE SENATE HEAR-
INGS "LIVE". AN INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE IS ASSIGNING
SPECIFIC AREAS OF TESTIMONY TO THE VARIOUS AGENCIES
INVOLVED AND THE DEPARTMENT WILL COORDINATE AND REVIEW
THE STATEMENTS.

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7. HEARINGS -- BOLIVIA: THE HUMPHREY SUBCOMMITTEE WILL
HOLD HEARING BEGINNING OCTOBER 12 ON THE NARCOTICS PRO-
GRAM IN BOLIVIA AND THE STATUS OF AMERICAN PRISONERS HELD
ON DRUG CHARGES. MALTHERA FALCO IS EXPECTED TO BE THE
LEADING WITNESS, WITH ARA AND SCA IN THE SUPPORTING ROLE.

8. CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE ACTIONS: THE INTER-AGENCY COM-
MITTEE ON HUMAN RIGHTS CHAIRED BY DEPUTY SECRETARY
CHRISTOPHER DECIDED ON SEPTEMBER 21 TO POSTPONE DECISION
FOR ONE WEEK ON PENDING IDB AND AID LOANS FOR NICARAGUA.
WE ARE TO EVALUATE FURTHER THE NICARAGUAN GOVERNMENT'S
LIFTING OF THE STATE OF SIEGE. PROSPECTS SEEM FAVORABLE
FOR A POSITIVE DECISION ON BOTH THESE ITEMS. ON SEPTEMBER
14 THE CHRISTOPHER COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT WE WOULD
HAVE TO VOTE AGAINST A PENDING REQUEST FOR A DOL.20 MIL-
LION CREDIT FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CHILE UNLESS
WE COULD CONVINCE THE IDB AND THE CHILEANS TO WITHDRAW
THE REQUEST. OUR POSITION IS BEING EXPLAINED TO BOTH.
THE COMMITTEE ALSO DEFERRED ACTION ON A PROPOSED
DOL.10 MILLION CCC CREDIT TO CHILE WHICH ARA, ALMOST
ALONE, HAS SUPPORTED AS AN ESSENTIALLY COMMERCIAL TRANS-
ACTION.

9. CARIBBEAN TASK FORCE: JOHN BUSHNELL WENT TO OTTAWA
FOR CONSULTATIONS ON PROPOSALS FOR A CARIBBEAN ASSISTANCE.
INTER-AGENCY MEETINGS HERE ARE CONSIDERING PROPOSALS FOR
A CARIBBEAN PRODUCTION INVESTMENT CORPORATION AND A CARIB-
BEAN REGIONAL INTEGRATION FUND WHICH BUSHNELL WANTS TO
HAVE READY FOR THE FY 79 BUDGET DEADLINE. TREASURY CON-
TINUES TO ARGUE THAT MULTI-DONOR CONSULTATIVE PROCEDURES
SHOULD BE IN PLACE BEFORE SPECIFIC ACTION PROPOSALS ARE
PRODUCED.

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10. MILITARY ASSISTANCE: FOLLOWING THE LIFTING OF THE NICARAGUAN STATE OF SIEGE, WE ARE TRYING AGAIN TO OBTAIN SIGNING AUTHORITY FOR A FY 77 FMS PACKAGE FOR NICARAGUA

BEFORE THE SEPTEMBER 30 DEADLINE. PRESSED BY THE SAME DEADLINE, WE ARE ALSO SEEKING FINAL APPROVAL OF INCREASES FOR ECUADOR AND PERU OF DOL.5 MILLION AND DOL.10 MILLION RESPECTIVELY FROM YEAR-END FY 77 FMS FUNDS. IN A MEMORANDUM TO THE SECRETARY WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THE IMPOSSIBILITY, GIVEN THE UNCHANGED HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ARGENTINA, OF SIGNING AN FMS CREDIT AGREEMENT WITH THAT COUNTRY FOR 1977. FINALLY, WE HAVE VETOED THE SALE BY ITALY OF F-104 AIRCRAFT TO ECUADOR AND HAVE SO INFORMED QUITO AND ROME. CHRISTOPHER

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